

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NSA-02 AID-20

RSR-01 CU-04 NIC-01 /117 W
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R 231916Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2942

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5310

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: WEEKEND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: PERON MOVES TO ALLAY PUBLIC CONCERN OVER HIS HEALTH, RECEIVES LEADERSHIP OF PERONIST YOUTH AND DESIGNATES LOPEZ REGA TO BE LIAISON WITH YOUTH. SHAPE OF SEPT 23 ELECTIONS STILL NOT CLEAR AND PRESSURES CONTINUE FOR CONGRESS TO DECLARE PERON PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY. NO ACTION REQUIRED.

2. IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC AFTER LAST FRIDAY'S RUMORS (BA-5271) CONCERNING HIS HEALTH, PERON ON SATURDAY, JULY 21, LEFT HIS HOUSE TO CALL ON HIS DOCTOR IN THE CITY, THEN WENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL QUINTA AS GUEST OF PRESIDENT LASTIRI, WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL 10 P.M.

3. PERONIST YOUTH STAGED A RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PERON'S CANDIDACY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON WHICH DREW A CROWD ESTIMATED BETWEEN 15 AND 30,000. FAR, FAP AND MONTONERO BANNERS WERE MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND THE PARTICIPANTS SHOUTED INSULTS AND SLOGANS HOSTILE TO LOPEZ REGA, LASTIRI, OSINDE AND RUCCI, BUT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORDERLY. THE CROWD MARCHED TO THE QUINTA WHERE ITS LEADERS (JUAN CARLOS DANTE GULLO, JUAN CARLOS AFION, ROBERTO
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AHUMADA AND JORGE LISAZO) WERE RECEIVED FOR TWO HOURS BY PERON.

LOPEZ REGA AND LASTIRI ALSO WERE PRESENT. AFTERWARD, THE LEADERS TOLD THE WAITING CROWD THEY HAD PRESENTED THE CONCERNS OF PERONIST YOUTH AND HAD FOUND PERON IN GOOD HEALTH. THEY THEN READ A MESSAGE FROM PERON IN WHICH HE ASSURED YOUTH AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE PRESS SECRETARY ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT PERON HAD DESIGNATED LOPEZ REGA TO BE HIS "DIRECT AND EXCLUSIVE" LIAISON WITH PERONIST YOUTH. (COMMENT: GIVEN THE HOSTILITY OF WIDE SECTORS OF PERONIST YOUTH TOWARD LOPEZ REGA, WHOM THEY DENOUNCE AS AN AGENT OF IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA, THIS APPOINTMENT IS A CURIOUS ONE INDEED.)

5. A PRO-PERON DEMONSTRATION ALSO CALLED FOR LAST SATURDAY IN CORDOBA WAS CANCELLED BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ON GROUNDS THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED THAT ARMED BANDS FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY WERE ARRIVING TO PROVOKE VIOLENCE. YOUTH SECTORS THERE ALLEGED THAT THESE BANDS WERE BROUGHT TO THE CITY FROM BUENOS AIRES IN BUSES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY.

6. THERE IS STILL NO CLARIFICATION AS TO WHO WILL SHARE THE TICKET WITH PERON. THE RADICALES ARE PREPARING TO DEBATE THE MATTER AT THEIR PARTY CONVENTION ON JULY 28 EVEN THOUGH PERON APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET MADE A FORMAL OFFER OF THE SLOT. SOME RUMORS HAVE PERONIST LEFT PUSHING CAMPORA FOR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSITION AND LABOR PUSHING ISABEL PERON OR LOPEZ REGA, ALTHOUGH CGT SEC GEN RUCCI HAS SPECIFICALLY DENIED THIS. PERON, HOWEVER, STILL SEEMS TO BE PUSHING HIS VERSION OF THE GRAN ACUERDO NACIONAL AND REPORTEDLY THIS WEEK WILL MEET WITH MANRIQUE. THE RECENT TALKS OF THE MILITARY WITH POLITICAL LEADERS (BA-5221) CONTINUE, SUGGESTING THAT THE FORMER'S ECLIPSE ALREADY IS SHORTER LIVED THAN MANY OBSERVERS EXPECTED. INDEED, PERON HIMSELF APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE THAT MILITARY SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ANY STABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION AND THE MILITARY SEEM SOLIDLY BEHIND THE CONCEPT OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVT.

7. MEANWHILE, MANY ARGENTINES ARE CONCERNED THAT SEPT 23 IS A LONG TIME AWAY AND BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRY CAN ILL SUPPORT, ON TOP OF THE ERRORS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION OF THE CAMPORA GOVT ANOTHER TWO MONTHS OF INTERIM GOVT WITH ATTENDANT POSTPONEMENT
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OF VITAL DECISIONS. THE POSSIBILITY OF PERON'S BEING PROCLAIMED PRESIDENT BY SOME FORMULA THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION STILL CANNOT BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT, PARTICULARLY IF THE ELECTION IS NOT TO BE CONTESTED. SUELDO OF THE APR HAS COME OUT OVER THE WEEKEND IN FAVOR OF THAT COURSE, AND MANRIQUE (APF) REPORT-EDLY WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITHIN HIS COALITION IF HE INSISTED ON RUNNING. THE PERONIST LEFT IS PRESSURING FOR THIS COURSE TOO BUT FOR OTHER REASONS.

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